



FOODIE ALERT

Street Scene

Whether you call it Normal Heights or North Park, this cross section of coolsville is catnip for food and drink fans. —*Gillian Flynn*

Like Jason McLeod, we're starting at **1. Cantina Mayahuel**, where a diet of street tacos and killer margaritas fueled the two-Michelin-star chef's labors while perfecting **Soda & Swine's** meatballs and apple pies, on offer across the street at Arsalun

Tafazoli's latest spot. Slip through the connecting passageway to light-flooded **2. Polite Provisions** for on-tap cocktails. >>> Then it's south on 30th toward El Cajon Boulevard, where **3. Tiger! Tiger!** devotees queue for craft beer and fire-roasted oysters. A new back patio

with picnic tables underscores the neighborhood vibe. >>> Get your kicks at **4. Coffee & Tea Collective**, the chic, minimalist hang that redefines slow roasting. Trust us, the pour-over coffees and cold brews are worth the wait. >>> Finally, just down the way, **5. Imig's** at the historic **Lafayette Hotel** is a well-designed refuge with a mean Reuben and a serious Bloody Mary. Come pool party weekends, hipster-watching has never been this good.

Feb 5

In the Mex

Just in time for Cinco de Mayo, we present the must-sip list—no sour mix included.
—*Amy Finley and GF*

1 Chandler's

With an ocean view, Chandler's at the newish Carlsbad Hilton is a fave North County spot for the house margarita made with fresh lime, silver tequila, Patron Citronge and a splash of mezcal chanderscarlsbad.com

2 Puesto

Talk about a match made in heaven. Cool cocktail collective Queen-Conner-Ward is teaming up with La Jolla's mod, Mexico City-inspired taco eatery for tempered libations, including a low(er)-proof frozen margie. "The Mule" features ginger, lime and bitters—*muy fabuloso* at midday. eatpuesto.com

3 Tony's Jacal

The ambiance at the classic Solana Beach saloon downright demands margarita consumption. Order the Silver Surfer, made lovingly by Aspen the bartender, with fresh orange and lime. Come race season, it's a do-not-miss. tonysjacal.com

4 Cucina Urbana

The blender-bending mixologist minds at the Bankers Hill fave splash house-infused red jalapeño tequila with prosecco for an Italian riff on Mexico's titular triumph. Expect a repeat at the upcoming Cucina Enoteca, slated to open this summer in Del Mar. cucinaenoteca.com

5 The Pony Room

Even white zinfandel could taste splendid in The Pony Room: It's just that special. Luckily for us, the house margarita not only knocks it out of the park, it's a skinny, low-cal version. This is, after all, the Ranch. Save the date for the Cinco de Mayo celebration featuring a live mariachi band and Mexican small plates by chef Eric Bauer. ranchovalencia.com

The Suite Life

From fabulous new spa treatments to out-of-this-world packages, the most luxurious resorts on the SoCal Riviera have it all—so why leave?

| By Gillian Flynn, Amy Finley, Kristen Schott and Carrie Storke Williams |



The Inn Crowd

The **Inn at Rancho Santa Fe** is embarking on a serious refresher course with plans to open a new spa and update the restaurant under the (twinkly) eyes of chef Todd Allison. The \$12 million remodel, set to be unveiled this summer, is capitalizing on the property's casual

sophistication. Rooms are being remodeled under two design themes: country elegance and starlet nostalgia. The spa will boast six treatment rooms, along with indoor-outdoor relaxation spaces. Our fave: A new equestrian program offers a Ride and Dine event, where *al fresco* dining takes place in the Tie-up Grove. *Prices start at \$199 per night, theinnatranchosantafe.com*



Relax, Just Do It!

Indulge in a yogi's dream: lodging in a luxurious **Rancho Valencia** casita, with days spent sun-saluting on the infinity-pool-perched yoga pavilion under the tutelage of on-site practice pro Katie Brauer. The resort's meditation on well-being is rounded out with hikes, spa experiences, fresh-pressed juices to energize and revitalize, and private nutritional consultations designed to make you feel as good as the recently refreshed Rancho Santa Fe resort looks. *Prices start at \$699 per night, ranchovalencia.com*



Artful Lodger

Downtown's granddaddy hotel, **US Grant**, spends the summer hooking up with another S.D. treasure, Balboa Park. A cuisine and culture package includes tickets to premier museums, plus Chef de Cuisine Chris Kurth packs a tote with a gourmet picnic lunch from the Grant Grill. *Prices start at \$249 per night, usgrant.net*



Inland Empire

Rancho Bernardo Inn utilizes its inland location for two different outings, luring guests off the lush property to—what else?—drink! Pick your poison: Craft brew aficionados score tasting tickets to the region's award-winning breweries with a bonus behind-the-scenes tour at Ballast Point. Or wine lovers get a peek at some of S.D.'s best-kept secret boutique wineries. *Prices start at \$199 per night, ranchobernardoinn.com*

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